

Amendment of the claims under Article 19(1) (Rule 46)

CLAIMS

1(Original). An inter-router adjustment method comprising:

an information request step of requesting router status
5 information to all router devices belonging to a same sub-network;

a step of acquiring the router status information and calculating priorities deciding a router device that is to become an operating status based on the router status
10 information so that the plurality of router devices can operate virtually as one router device; and

a step of deciding a first router device that is to become an operating status and a second router device to be in a standby status, according to the priorities.

15 2(Original). An inter-router adjustment method comprising:

an information request step of requesting router status information to all router devices belonging to a same sub-network;

20 a step of acquiring the router status information and calculating priorities for deciding a router device that is to become an operating status based on the router status information so that the plurality of router devices can operate virtually as one router device;

25 a step of transmitting the priorities calculated for the

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router devices respectively to the router devices; and

a step for a first router device which received the priority to decide whether or not to become an operating status, depending upon the priority of its own and the priority of a
5 second router device received from the second router device being in an operating status.

3(Original). An inter-router adjustment method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, further including a step of adjusting the priorities between the router devices depending
10 upon a significance of the router status information.

4(Original). An inter-router adjustment method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein request for the router status information is periodically made based on the information request step.

15 5(Original). An inter-router adjustment method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein request for the router status information is made according to a request from a communication device including the router devices connected to the same sub-network.

20 6(Original). An inter-router adjustment method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein calculating the priorities is made when there is a change in the router status information acquired.

7(Original). An inter-router adjustment method according
25 to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the router status

information is at least any one of a line status, a processing burden and a battery remaining capacity of the router device itself.

8(Original). A router priority calculation device
5 comprising:

a router information gathering section for gathering router status information of router devices belonging to a same sub-network;

10 a priority calculating section for calculating priorities deciding a router device that is to become an operating status based on the router status information so that a plurality of router devices can operate virtually as one router device; and

15 a priority notifying section for notifying the priorities calculated for the router devices respectively to the router devices.

9(Original). A router priority calculation device comprising:

20 a router information gathering section for gathering router status information of the router devices belonging to a same sub-network;

25 a priority calculating section for calculating priorities deciding a router device that is to become an operating status based on the router status information so that a plurality of router devices can operate virtually as one

router device;

a master deciding section for deciding a first router device that is to become an operating status and a second router device that is to be in a standby status, according to the priorities; and

a master notifying section for notifying information identifying the decided router device to the router device.

10(Original). A router priority calculation device according to either claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the router information gathering section has a comparing section for comparing the router status information newly acquired with existing router status information, to instruct the priority calculating section to re-calculate a priority when the comparing section detects a difference in the router status information.

11(Original). A router priority calculation device according to either claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the router information gathering section has an information request section for requesting the router status information to the router device.

12(Original). A router priority calculation device according to claim 11, wherein the router information gathering section has a timer, the information request section requesting the router status information when receiving a time-up notification from the timer.

13(Original). A router priority calculation device according to claim 11, wherein the router information gathering section further includes an update request receiving section for receiving an update request for the priority from
5 a communication device including the router devices connected to the same sub-network,

the update request receiving section, when receiving the update request, making a notification to the information request section whereby the information request section
10 requests the router status information to the router device.

14(Original). A router priority calculation device according to either claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the router status information is at least any one of a line status, a processing burden and a battery remaining capacity of the
15 router device itself.

15(Original). A router device comprising:

a status notifying section for forwarding router status information comprising at least any one of a line status, a process burden and a battery remaining capacity;

20 a priority receiving section for receiving a priority deciding a router device that is to become an operating status so that a plurality of router devices belonging to a same sub-network can operate virtually as one router device; and

a master deciding section for deciding whether to become
25 an operating status or a standby status, according to the

priority received and a priority notified from a first router device in an operating status.

16(Original). A router device according to claim 15, wherein the status notifying section forwards periodically the router status information onto the sub-network.
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17(Original). A router device according to claim 15, further including an information request receiving section for receiving a request for the router status information, to forward the router status information onto the sub-network depending upon the request the status notifying section received.
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18(Original). A router device according to claim 15, further including a status monitor section for monitoring a change in the router status information, the status monitor section, when detecting a change in the router status information, making a notification to the information notifying section whereby the information notifying section forwards a latest router status information onto the sub-network.
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20 19(Amended). A local network system comprising a router device that is comprised with

a status notifying section for forwarding router status information comprising at least any one of a line status, a process burden and a battery remaining capacity;
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a priority receiving section for receiving a
priority deciding a router device that is to become an
operating status so that a plurality of router devices
belonging to a same sub-network can operate virtually as
5 one router device; and

a master deciding section for deciding whether to
become an operating status or a standby status, according
to the priority received and a priority notified from a
first router device in an operating status~~according to~~
10 ~~any one of claims 15 to 18, and~~

a router priority calculation device that is comprised with

a router information gathering section for
gathering router status information of router devices
belonging to a same sub-network;

15 a priority calculating section for calculating
priorities deciding a router device that is to become an
operating status based on the router status information
so that a plurality of router devices can operate
virtually as one router device; and

20 a priority notifying section for notifying the
priorities calculated for the router devices
respectively to the router devices~~according to any one~~
~~of claims 8 to 13.~~